

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Wind Cave National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: WICA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Wind Cave National Park is located in western South Dakota, on the southern edge of the Black Hills. The park was established in 1903 to protect Wind Cave from commercial exploitation and to provide the public the opportunity to see a large cave system. In 1935 the park expanded its mission to preserve the unique surface resources of the area including wildlife such as bison, pronghorn antelope, and elk.

The cave is internationally significant for its length, it is currently the fourth-longest cave in the world at 125 miles; its complexity, it is one of, if not the most, complex three-dimensional maze caves in the world; and its rare cave formation known as boxwork. This honeycomb formation made out of calcite hangs from the walls and ceilings.

Above ground, the park preserves one of the last remnants of a mixed-grass prairie that is home to a variety of animals including the endangered black-footed ferret and the only federally owned herd of disease-free, pure bison in the country.

The centennial vision for Wind Cave National Park and its partners is to ensure congressionally approved land which includes a prehistoric buffalo jump and historic homestead dating back to the beginning of the last century are included in the boundaries of the park; maintain dark skies in the entire hills to provide unimpeded views of the stars and planets that are rapidly vanishing throughout our world and to set the example in renewable energy usage by creating demonstration projects to educate the public and move into the future of energy use. Educational programs will be expanded to include the critical role of the reintroduced and endangered black-footed ferret plays in a mixed grass prairie ecosystem and the multi-cultural story of indigenous peoples of the area.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Rick Mossman, Acting Superintendent

Site: WICA

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The President has signed legislation to acquire 5,657 acres along Wind Cave National Park's southern boundary. This additional land includes a prehistoric buffalo jump dating back at least a thousand years, an historic homestead dating back to the beginning of the last century, various ecosystems for wildlife habitat, and the potential of miles of hiking trails and backcountry camping opportunities

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: WICA

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

This initiative would provide funding to conduct multi-cultural interpretation at Wind Cave National Park. Wind Cave is considered the origin site for the Lakota, and is sacred to many American Indian tribes. Funding from this initiative would be used to staff a cultural demonstration display, increase training for the entire interpretive staff, bring in American Indian speakers for seasonal training and public campfire programs, and increase cultural information available on the park's website.

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Site: WICA

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Wind Cave NP will take the lead in coordination and implementation a series of retrofit projects in the three Black Hills National Parks. The primary focus will be with photovoltaic projects tied in to our visitor centers and select housing units. When installed, the projects will be interpreted to educate visitors/school groups on renewable energy sources. In addition to photovoltaic sources other low profile energy sources will be investigated.

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☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

This project would be a multi-agency effort to work with federal, state, and local governments, private agencies and individuals to seek ways to minimize the intrusion of artificial (sic) light into the night scene in the Black Hills, recognizing the part that darkness and night sky play in the natural and cultural world. This effort would work to develop potential state-wide lighting ordinances, provide technical assistance for lighting ordinances in communities, and working to restore light polluted night skies through reduction in lighting or reduction in light scatter.

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